

DEDICATED TO OUR COMMUNITY, OUR PROFESSION AND EACH OTHER

# THE RESPONDER

November 2009

Discovery Health Comes to Alexandria



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On the web!  
[www.alexandriava.gov/fire](http://www.alexandriava.gov/fire)

The Discovery Health Channel was in Alexandria on Friday November 13, 2009. The purpose of the visit was to produce a documentary focused on four people who had actually flat-lined and had been brought back to life. The title of the documentary is "I was Dead", scheduled to air the first week of January 2010. The director wanted to use experienced first responders to get a true representation of the original incident and to accurately represent the profession.



Shooting from above to simulate out of body experience

Four of our own were used to recreate one of four scenarios. Chase Sylvester, Karen Lopez,



Chase Sylvester and Karen Lopez getting guidance from the director

Don Scott and Jen Ivy were selected from a list of volunteers. Filming started promptly at 11:00, at the director's house, and ended at 18:30. The four incidents occurred over twenty years ago, making it difficult to locate dated equipment. By chance the PDC had a pair of old defibrillators.

Chase played the role of Randall Brazeir, the lead medic and Karen

Lopez played the role of his partner. The scenario: Medic Brazeir is getting patient information

from a responsive male complaining of chest pains when he suddenly goes into cardiac arrest. While performing ALS protocol for a cardiac arrest patient, the AED's battery failed to work. A second medic crew, played by Don Scott and Jennifer Ivy, is dispatched and arrives to assist, their defibrillator is switched out with the first crew's. The patient is brought back to tell his story.



Setting up to get the right daylight effect to the interior



## Firefighter's Tutor at Maury Elementary School

Maury Elementary School was looking to implement a tutoring program to help support students needing extra help through out the 2009-2010 school year. Students experiencing difficulty passing the PALS (Phonological Awareness Literacy Screening) would receive help in Language Arts and Math. PALS assessments are designed to identify students in need of additional reading instruction beyond that provided to typically developing readers. The success or failure of the after school tutoring/mentoring program would rely on volunteers.

When Maury Elementary School called looking for mentors/tutors to help, a call for volunteers was sent to all fire department personnel. Mike Wimer, Gregg Cook, Christina Holt, Rick Muse, Pete Mensinger, Charles Cooper and Luis Santano answered the call. They committed to meeting with students every Tuesday between 2:45 and 4:00 for the rest of the school year. Each volunteer was assigned to work with one particular student for the school year. Teachers recommend their students for this



L-R: Luis Santano, Gregg Cook Christina Holt and Pete Mensinger with their students

program and provide the study subjects and materials. Most, but not all, of the students in this program are in grades 3, 4 or 5.

Fire department personnel working shift work (opposite shifts) were paired two per student, insuring at least one of the fire fighters would be available to tutor the student.

The students now look forward to Tuesday's and welcome fire department personnel with a smile. Students are treated to a game of basketball provide all work is completed. Collectively, there are more fire department volunteers then there are parents. Mike Wimer, Gregg Cook, Christina Holt, Rick Muse, Pete Mensinger, Charles Cooper and Luis Santano truly exhibit an altruistic effort towards community

## Alexandria Fire Department gives back to the Community.....

Alexandria Fire Department personnel partnered with *Firefighters to the Rescue*, a non profit company founded by Captain Willie Bailey of Fairfax County Fire and Rescue, to distribute coats to area schools and recreation centers. The Coats for Kids Foundation donated new coats in varies sizes for boys and girls. Local schools and recreation centers submitted their request for coats according to their needs and firefighter's bagged and

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Reggie Rich assists Fairfax County firefighter



Assistant Chief Snead fits a student with a new coat



## Mentoring Day Helps Shape Future Careers.. Submitted by Patsieann Misiti



L to R: Paul Scaffido, Kevin Griffin, Jasmine Harper, and Mike Faber

On October 21, Alexandria Fire Department (AFD) employees Paul Scaffido (Office of Emergency Management) and Firefighter Mike Faber participated in Mentoring Day with TC Williams High School Students' Jasmine Harper and Kevin Griffin.

As part of National Disability Employment Awareness Month, Mentoring Day was created to offer unique opportunities to young persons with disabilities by shadowing City staff members for a day. Through participation in these activities,

students would gain exposure to a variety of career choices that may be available to them as they seek future employment with their local governments.

The days' agenda for Jasmine and Kevin included visits to AFD Fire Administration, the Professional Development Center, Burn Building (live fire training facility), AFD Supply Division and all nine Fire Stations. Special thanks go out to 207 C shifts for hosting lunch. Jasmine and Kevin were also given an overview of the services

provided by the office of Building and Fire Code Administration but were unable to visit those offices in the time allowed.

Paul Scoffed appreciated the opportunity to act as co-host. "Jasmine is a bright and outgoing senior. At the beginning of the day she shared her doubts about continuing her education after high school, however, by the end of our day together, she was excited and talked about planning for college." "Kevin, a sophomore, was especially interested in the administrative functions of the Department vs. the duties of a first responder. We encouraged this thought process as we explained that a number of opportunities exist that don't involve entering a burning building or providing emergency medical service.

Mike Faber was mutually enlightened by the visit with Jasmine and Kevin. "It was a rewarding experience for all." "The students were able to get a sneak peak at the Alexandria Fire Department and in turn, we got a glimpse of how the students view us." "I would encourage everyone to take advantage of this opportunity and any other mentoring programs that are out there." "Remember, we are

## .....Alexandria Fire Department gives back to the Community continued

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loaded them in waiting cars. The coat drive was hosted at fire station 411.

The goal of the coat drive was to ensure children needing coats receive a new one. Assistant Chief Andrew Snead, Captain Thurston McClain, Captain Luis Santano, EMS Supervisor Lisa Jones and Firefighter Reggie Rich participated. Some of the coats, along with frozen turkey, were delivered to Cora Kelly students prior to the Thanksgiving Holiday. The next joint event is a toy drive scheduled for Monday December 14th.



Captain McClain

Students with new coats and turkey's

## Awards and Recognition



*Byron receives the 2009 Governor's  
Emergency Medical Services Award  
for Outstanding EMS Administrator  
The Kent J. Weber Trophy*

With more than 30 years of service to EMS, Byron has demonstrated exemplary leadership and administrative skills through organizing, conducting, managing, problem-solving and evaluating within his affiliated organizations. Since 1988, Chief Andrews has served in various positions and is currently the Chief of Sterling Volunteer Rescue Squad, where he administers and commands 150 volunteers. In a region that's primarily run by career EMS groups and a county that continues to add career support to their volunteer agencies, Chief Andrews has

been able to recruit and maintain a large volunteer force by using his extensive skills as an administrator. Through his leadership and expertise, Chief Andrews' squad stands out as an excellent example of a well-run volunteer EMS agency. Most recently, Sterling Volunteer Rescue Squad was recognized in *EMS Magazine* as the "Best Volunteer Agency", which is a direct result of Chief Andrews' leadership. Chief Andrews' significant contributions to Virginia's local, regional and state EMS system are exceptional and greatly valued in the Commonwealth of Virginia.

## Retirements and Farewells



Damian Jorge



Eric Warren

## October Statistics

FIRE ALARM HEADQUARTERS CALLS PROCESSED	
911	1169
Administration Received	5388
Administration Dialed	2189
Dispatched Calls	1650
Total calls	8,884

## October Run Stats

	Unit	EMS	SUP	TOTAL	Current Yr	Previous Yr
Station 201	E201	45	86	131	1,199	1,422
Station 202	M202	168	38	206	1,872	2,205
Station 203	E203	38	59	97	1,020	1,265
	T203	8	86	94	847	954
Total		46	145	191	1,867	2,219
Station 204	E204	50	74	124	1,131	1,319
	T204	13	107	120	1,202	1,389
Total		63	181	244	2,333	2,708
Station 205	E205	61	118	179	1,760	2,127
	M205	217	58	275	2,592	2,857
Total		278	176	454	4,352	4,984
Station 206	E206	80	107	187	1,748	1,974
	M206	199	40	239	2,400	2,806
	R206	0	0	0	234	534
Total		279	147	426	4,382	5,314
Station 207	E207	84	85	169	1,823	2,230
	M207	197	27	224	2,098	2,469
Total		281	112	393	3,921	4,699
Station 208	E208	97	138	235	2,397	2,828
	M208	216	66	282	2,502	2,877
	T208	19	114	133	1,175	1,366
Total		332	318	650	6,074	7,071
Station 209	E209	0	0	0	0	1,357
	H209	0	0	0	0	0
Total		0	0	0	0	1,357
Station totals		1,558	1,274	2,832	27,185	31,979